

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A desiccating device and method providing variable drying conditions allowing the desiccated material to substantially maintain its natural characteristics upon re-hydration as well as have a low microbial content. The method provides a process of

5 subjecting the material to ultrasound and flowing hot air or gas for a defined period of time. The ultrasonic frequency, temperature, air flow and time of exposure can be varied to produce the most efficient drying conditions depending on the material to be dried. The apparatus has plurality of drying chambers with forced heated air or gas input and output ducts and ultrasonic emitter. The material passes through each

10 chamber at a pre-determined rate on a perforated conveyor belt in one embodiment of the invention. Optionally, the material may be placed on a drying bed or substrate comprising a number of spheres.